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## Conference News and Announcements

### This Fall the Conference Comes Alive!

A leading emphasis this fall will be our continued engagement of the **Campaign to Expand the Mission and Ministry of the Conference** by securing support from our congregations to Build Covenant and Connection, Build Leadership and Build Congregations. Our challenge goal for this campaign is \$3.8 million, and our minimum goal is \$1.4 million. Ambassador **Andrew Young**, member of **First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**, has offered to serve as Honorary Chair of the campaign, and the General Chairs are **Rev. Susan Mitchell of Rush Memorial UCC, Atlanta**, and **Bob Watson of Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta**. There will be a recruitment of teams of visitors to present the story to each church of the 51 churches in the conference, and to make an invitation for them to be a part of the effort to expand the ministries of the conference over the next decade.

### 2009 Fall Association Meetings

Our three associations have scheduled their fall meetings. Alabama-Tennessee Association will meet in Birmingham September 25-26, East Alabama-West Georgia on October 10th in Pine Mountain, GA, and Georgia-South Carolina, on October 17th, in Atlanta.

### *Celebrating the Hopes and Dreams of Our Global Village*

**United Church of Christ**  
**Alabama/Tennessee Association, Southeast Conference**  
**Fall Gathering**  
**First Congregational Church, 1024 Center Street, North**  
**Birmingham, Alabama 35304**  
*featuring*  
**Global Ministries**  
**United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

### Highlights

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009**

4:00 p.m. Registration Check-in

4:15- 5:45 p.m. Documentary showing and discussion *Library*  
*Life in Occupied Palestine*

Eyewitness Stories and Photos by Anna Baltzer

6:00 p.m. Dinner *Fellowship Hall*

7:00 p.m. *Global Village Celebration Sanctuary*

*Featuring the Oikos Ensemble*

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26**

7:30 a.m. Breakfast *Fellowship Hall*

8:30 Mission *Alive Worship Sanctuary*

10:00 - 11:50 Mission Discussions

...Directions, accommodations, and more details available by contacting Don Clark at [clarkjd@frontiernet.net](mailto:clarkjd@frontiernet.net)

**EAST ALABAMA WEST GEORGIA ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Oak Grove Christian Church, UCC, Pine Mountain, GA**  
**October 10, 2009**  
**9:30 (EST) Gathering, Breakfast--12:30 Adjourn following lunch**

**Program: Rev. Kathy Clark**  
**"New Paths to Discernment for Ministry; the UCC Engages in**  
**Formation for Ministry for the Emerging UCC"**

The Southeast Conference is taking a leading role under the guidance of Associate Conference Minister Kathy Clark in living into the Multiple Paths to Ministry



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which was taken to the next level of implementation by actions of the Grand Rapids General Synod when it voted the necessary changes to the Constitution and Bylaws to implement multiple paths. The Georgia-South Carolina Association is hosting a workshop on November 7th in Atlanta for licensed ministers of the Southeast Conference to provide them an overview of the process of becoming a member in discernment by developing a portfolio organized around the marks of a faithful and effective ministry.

### Georgia-South Carolina Association

#### Annual Meeting

October 17th, 2009

10:00—3:00pm

Keep an eye open for program details and agenda

[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

### Conference Minister and Secretary Bette Graves Thomas to Attend Regional Meeting



September 14-15 the conference ministers of each of the conferences in the Southern Region, with their moderators will gather for a meeting in Tampa, the purpose of which is to explore future collaborations among conferences in this region. The lay representative from our conference will be Bette Graves Thomas, the secretary of our Board. The conferences of this region are Southern Conference (North Carolina and Tidewater Virginia), Southeast, Florida, and South Central (Louisiana, Texas and the Mississippi coast).

As conferences face the challenges of ministry in a time of diminished resources, we are beginning to find new ways to collaborate around program and staffing. The Southeast Conference provides consultation on new church development to Southern, Florida and South Central. We will look at this at the first step toward encouraging additional exploration of how we can strengthen each other.

### Friends of the Conference Program—Get a “Thank You!” Gift

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference has initiated a “Friends of the Conference” program through which individuals who want to support specific ministries will have an opportunity to do so. If you wish to make a \$250 contribution to the TAP Program, to OCWM (Our Church’s Wider Mission), or to support the work of a specific new church start send a check to Friends of the Southeast Conference, 1330 West Peachtree Street, NW, Suite #350, Atlanta, GA 30309, Attn: Tim Downs, and we will send you a beautiful canvas briefcase with the logo of the Friends of the Conference campaign embroidered on it.

### Southeast Conference Partners with National UCC in Sponsoring the New Church Leadership Institute in Atlanta

The very successful New Church Leadership Institute was held at Emory University August 3-7 with over 150 pastors from across the UCC coming to participate in an expanded program which this year invited not only new church start pastors, but pastors of renewing congregations as well.

Workshops led by leading experts in the areas of new church development and congregational vitality were present. Associate Conference Minister **Cameron Trimble** has provided the executive support and direction for the development of this program. The Southeast Conference was well represented with pastors from a number of our congregations participating.



*Posted on September 14, 2009*

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